

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1-10 (canceled).**

**Claim 11 (new):** Communications apparatus comprising:

a router and at least one connection controller, said router, in use, routing data to and from terminals on a local area network, and said connection controller controlling connections involving at least one of the terminals to another network;

a network address translation translator for translating addresses on incoming data to addresses of terminals on the local area network; and

a monitor for monitoring usage of a network address and for sending a message indicative of non-usage to the connection controller; wherein

the connection controller is responsive to receipt of the message to determine whether to release a connection to another network; and

the network address translator includes a table of network addresses having associated use state data.

**Claim 12 (new):** Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the monitor is an IP router.

**Claim 13 (new):** Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the connection operates in accordance with a point to point protocol (PPP) and at least one additional protocol.

**Claim 14 (new):** Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the at least one additional protocol is one of a point to point tunneling protocol (PPTP) or a point to point protocol over Ethernet (PPPoE).

**Claim 15 (new):** Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the connection controller is an entity on the router.

**Claim 16 (new):** Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the at least one connection controller is a software object.

**Claim 17 (new):** Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein a plurality of respective connection controllers is provided, each controlling a respective connection.

**Claim 18 (new):** A method of controlling connection to a LAN of another network comprising:

providing a router connected by an interface to ports for applications running on terminals on the LAN;

providing a connection controller for controlling connection between the router and the another network;

monitoring use of the interface to the ports;

recording the use of a port in a network address translator table; and

IF the interface IS unused for the connections to the ports, sending a message to the network controller to break the connection between the router and the another network.